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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 11 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a press release issued yesterday, 10 June 2010, by the Government of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the Day of Affirmation of Argentine Sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and the Antarctic Sector (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this note and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 23 on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press release

Day of Affirmation of Argentine Sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands

Buenos Aires, 10 June 2010

On 10 June, the Day of Affirmation of Argentine Sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and the Antarctic Sector, the Argentine nation commemorates the establishment in 1829 of the Political and Military Command for the Malvinas Islands and the islands adjacent to Cape Horn in the Atlantic Ocean, by decree of Brigadier General Martín Rodríguez, Acting Governor of Buenos Aires Province.

Since its beginnings as an independent nation, the Argentine Republic has, through government acts, publicly exercised its effective sovereignty over the southern territories and maritime areas which it inherited from Spain.

The Government of Argentina has never ceased to reaffirm its legitimate title to the islands and has sought to ensure the rule of law so as to better protect the activities of the Argentine population and of the people from other countries residing there. In the process, it created an appropriate institutional framework for the subsequent colonization undertaken by the Governor of the Malvinas Islands, Luis Vernet.

This effective exercise of sovereignty was interrupted on 3 January 1833, when British forces occupied the Malvinas Islands, expelling the Argentine population and authorities settled there and replacing them with British subjects.

The people and Government of Argentina never consented to that act of force, and today they reiterate the historic mandate set out in the first Transitional Provision of the Constitution regarding their unwavering and irrevocable determination to recover, through the peaceful path of diplomatic negotiations, the full exercise of Argentina's sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, the South Georgia Islands, the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas. This objective is State policy and reflects the collective wish of the people of the Argentine nation.

With respect to the situation currently created by the illicit, unilateral hydrocarbon exploration and mining activities in the area illegally occupied by the United Kingdom, the Government of Argentina reaffirms that it has exclusive authority to establish the conditions for activities involving hydrocarbons in any part of the Argentine continental shelf. Consequently, any attempt to authorize the conduct of such activities which is not sanctioned by the Government of Argentina constitutes an unlawful act under both Argentine and international law.

Argentina's claim to these southern territories and maritime areas has the support of the countries in the region. Furthermore, a number of international organizations and forums, among them the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Ibero-American Summits, the zone of peace and cooperation of

the South Atlantic, the South American-Arab Countries Summits, the South America-Africa Summits, the Rio Group and the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Group of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on Latin America and the Caribbean, have all recognized that there is a sovereignty dispute and urged both parties to resume negotiations.

Today, the Government of the Argentine Republic once again reiterates its continued willingness to resume negotiations with a view to finding the means to resolve the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Malvinas Islands peacefully and definitively. Regrettably, thus far the persistent and unjustified refusal on the part of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has perpetuated an anachronistic colonial situation that is incompatible with modern times.